Les Bijoux

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Volume 4

Again, pages split by automation.
Sorry if you prefer I not. It's just find it easier to read.

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ISBN: 1-591B2-693-4

First TOKYOPOP printing: August 2004
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in the USA

LAST TIME IN LES BIJOUX...

The world is divided into 12 *Mines*, each ruled by a tyrannical *Habit*. It is a time of war and oppression, when the *Spars*, the working class, live in mortal fear of the Habits. In the midst of this chaos, in the Mine of *Neige*, a strange thing happened. A miraculous child was born from a union between a dwarf and a hunchback...a child who takes on the form of a male and female.

Now the child, *Lapis Lazuli*, has grown up. After his parents were slaughtered by the Habit *Diamond*, Lapis swore revenge against the lord of Neige. But Lapis only managed to cut out Diamond's right eye before the Habit escaped. Homeless and friendless, Lapis travels across the continent to the Mine of *Soleil*, where he makes two new friends, *Carnelian*, brother to the Habit, and "*Butterfly*," a spiritual guide with the ability to transform into a panther.

Lapis gains new allies and new enemies as he faces his role as the one who will overthrow the tyrannical Habits. After steeling his courage, he departs to find the divine sword of Tourmaline. When two of Lapis' friends are slaughtered before his very eyes, Butterfly and Lapis begin a journey to find all of Lapis' guardians.

After Lapis is rescued by Silica, he finds himself recuperating in Sable Mine. There, a tyrannical ruler name Pyrope suppresses the people with a heavy water tax and threatens brutality and oppression if they don't pay up. To help the citizens who hunger for change, Lapis comes up with an ingenious plan to quench their thirst for justice.

Four long years
have passed...
Isle Mine

...AND THE SMUGGLER'S GUILD SAYS THAT DIAMOND'S ARMY HAS BEEN PIRATING SHIPS UP AND DOWN THE COAST.
SO DIAMOND'S A PIRATE NOW TOO? YOU'D THINK MER MINE'S NAVY WOULD HAVE SUNK HIM BY NOW
HIS BUTCHERS HAVE BEEN KNOCKING OVER MINES LIKE DOMINOS! MER FELL MONTHS AGO
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE BANDIT PRINCE AND HIS ARMY--
A BANDIT ARMY?!
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF THE BANDIT PRINCE?
THERE'S THIS GANG OF BANDITS HIDING OUT IN THOSE FOOTHILLS DOWN SOUTH. THEY KEEP RAIDING LADY ESMERAUD'S TREASURE CARAVANS. THEY'RE LEAD BY THE BRAVEST BANDIT EVER TO--
OH, THE BANDIT PRINCE. I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT HIM! LADY ESMERAUD SENT A COUPLE OF PATROLS AFTER HIM, BUT THEY'VE NEVER MANAGED TO FIND A FRESH TRAIL.

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EXCUSE ME, MISS, BUT DOES THIS TRAIL LEAD INTO THE FOOTHILLS?
DEPENDS ON WHO WANTS TO KNOW. WHO WANTS TO KNOW?
WE'RE JUST...UM... TRAVELERS LOOKING FOR AN OLD FRIEND.
HM?
FOLLOW THAT TRAIL, AND YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF IN THE FOOTHILLS. BUT I'D BE CAREFUL. THOSE HILLS ARE CRAWLING WITH BANDITS.

WAIT
PERFECT. I MEAN... WE'LL HAVE TO BE ON OUR GUARD. THANKS!
HE'S GONE.

WHO WAS HE?
UH OH! I'VE SEEN THAT LOOK BEFORE!
I DON'T KNOW BUT HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A HOTTER MAN?
HE'S SO CUTE!!!
OH, SHOOT! I FORGOT TO TELL HIM ABOUT THE RED FLAG!
YOU WHAT?
SHARY, IS THAT ONE OF THEM?

YEAH, THEY'RE HERE. THE FEELING'S STRONGER THAN EVER. SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
JUST KEEP MOVING.
CLANK CLANK...
VERY CLEVER ESMERALDA! BUT NEXT TIME, ADD A RED FLAG TO THE TRAVELER'S RAG TO DISGUISE YOUR TREASURE TRAIN IF YOU WANT TO SNEAK PAST

AND SO I SAYS, "TRY THAT AGAIN! BUT THIS TIME, WITHOUT THE PICKLE!"
HA HA HA!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I KNOW YOU IDIOTS HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAST CREW I FOUND DRINKING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY?!!!
UH.. WELL. YA SEE, MS LOTHESTIE...

SHUT YOUR HOLE! THERE'S A GAGGLE OF GEESE HEADED UP THE TRAIL. HURRY UP AND GET READY TO PLUCK THEM!
YAWN! DO WE HAVE WORK TO DO?
AWWW! DID I WAKE YOU UP, SLEEPING BEAUTY?
YAAARRR!

SO WE HAVE GUESTS ON THE WAY? I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO GO ENTERTAIN THEM SIGH. IT'S TOO EARLY TO BE A GOOD HOST

FINALLY! TOOK THEM LONG ENOUGH.
PHEEET!

I LISTEN CAREFULLY! YOU TRESPASSERS HAVE ONE CHANCE TO LEAVE HERE WITH YOUR LIVES!
WE'RE NOT WITH ESMERAUD! WE'RE TRAVELERS, LOOKING FOR OUR FRIEND!
OH, I'M SOOOOO SORRY! WELL, GO AHEAD THEN!
DROP ALL OF ESMERAUD'S TREASURE, TURN AROUND AND LEAVE NOW. RIGHT NOW.
AFTER THREE CENTURIES OF DECEIT, THAT'S THE BEST STORY SHE COULD COME UP WITH?

YOU ASKED FOR IT, KID! ATTACK!!!
91 OF
L-L-LET ME HANDLE THESE B-B-BOYS, BOSS.
ALL RIGHT, TAIMAI JUST GO EASY ON THEM, OKAY?

GRAAAHHH!
DID YOU SEE THAT? WHAT KIND OF MONSTER IS HE?
AIIIEEEE!

OW.. OUCH MY HEAD...
OUT OF MY WAY! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT LUNK!
HYAAAAH!!!
OH M-M-MAN! NO FAIR! I C-C-CAN'T HIT A GIRL!

YAAAH!
FIRST, A GIANT SWINGING TREE LIKE A GLITHIM BAT...
AND NOW A SHADOW THAT MOVES LIKE A SNAKE! HE'S AS FAST AS..
DAMN IT!

HOLD ON, LOTHESTIE. I'LL HANDLE HIM.
BE CAREFUL. HE'S QUICK QUICK AS YOU
I SAW
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE GOTTEN A REAL WORKOUT
THAT VOICE...
THAT SWORD
I AM
IF YOU WANT TO CALL US A RABBLE, BE MY GUEST. A MAN SHOULD CHOOSE HIS LAST WORDS FREELY, DON'T YOU THINK?
SO YOU'RE THE FAMOUS "BANDIT PRINCE?" AND THIS IS YOUR RABBLE?

SURE YOU GO FIRST
YOU'RE TOO KIND... HYRAAAH!!!
IS THAT...?

Shary

A soul with
the purity of a child
For her, the future is
cloaked in darkness
But the guardian stones
gleam like guiding stars
She is the one whose
radiance can banish
the shadows from
Lapis' soul.